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An article has irregular characteristics such as an irregular geometrical configuration. Radiation from a radiation source is directed in a particular direction toward the article. The radiation energy passing from the source to the article at different positions in the article is absorbed in accordance with the irregularities in the characteristics of the article at the different positions to maintain the radiant energy at the different positions in the article within particular limits. For irregularities of a geometrical configuration in the article, the absorption may be provided by a fixture having a geometrical configuration which constitutes the difference at every position between a substantially constant value and the geometrical configuration of the article at this position. The absorption may be provided by conveying the article and the fixture past the radiation source in a direction substantially perpendicular to the particular direction.